



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Ted Stewart
Executive Director
James W. Carter
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-7223 (TDD)

Mine file

June 10, 1997

Don A. Ostler, Director
Division of Water Quality
288 North 1460 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

Re: Reclamation Status of the Drum Mine Site, M/027/007, Millard County, Utah

Dear Mr. Ostler:

I am writing to inform you and others of the current status of our work to initiate reclamation of the Drum Mine site and to request your assistance.

- In April, 1997, the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) filed an Agency Action against the two permit holders of record, Western States Minerals Corporation (WSMC) and Jumbo Mining Company (Jumbo), requesting them to show cause why they should not proceed with reclamation as to their respective permit areas. That Board hearing was scheduled for May, 1997, but has been postponed until August.
- On May 13, 1997, WSMC held a meeting with DOGM to discuss legal issues related to the Agency Action. At that meeting, WSMC expressed an interest to explore what would be involved for them to move forward with reclamation. All agreed that the first issue to be decided was the closure method for the heap leach pads. DOGM agreed to set up a meeting with WSMC and the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) to discuss this issue in order to assist with moving reclamation forward.
- On June 4, 1997, representatives of DOGM, WSMC, and DWQ's Mark Novak and Dave Rupp met at DOGM to discuss heap leach closure standards and tests to characterize the heaps to indicate methods for closure. DWQ represented that there are no standards or characterization methods for these heap leach facilities.

The following was presented/decided at the meeting.

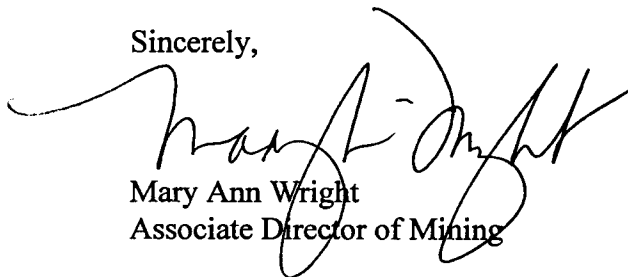
1. WSMC will decide within 2 weeks whether to pursue the closure and reclamation option.

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2. If WSMC decides to pursue reclamation, in the absence of established State standards for heap or waste dump characterization for closure, they will submit a characterization plan to DWQ's Mark Novak for review and approval. That plan will also be sent to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and DOGM for review as well. To assure prompt reclamation, I am requesting a 30-day turn-around time by each agency once we have a plan to review.
 3. The intent of the plan will be to characterize WSMC's designated heaps and waste dumps so that an appropriate closure and reclamation plan can be developed to ensure DWQ that local and regional ground water resources will not be degraded at this site.
- WSMC has expressed its intent to work jointly with BLM, DWQ and DOGM on technical matters of reclamation for its areas of responsibility at the site. WSMC has also expressed that, not having been on the site in 10 years, they believe it will be important for them to garner as much cooperation and assistance from all of the agencies involved in order for them to physically begin reclamation on the ground, and secondly, for the reclamation to be a success in achieving the designated post-mining land use.

Please let me know at the earliest if there are any other, or better, means by which your agency and ours can work together to achieve on-the-ground closure and reclamation of this site. That is DOGM's mission and we are asking you for all of your possible expertise and assistance to reach that goal. I can be contacted at 538-5306 or by E-mail. I thank you for your help thus far and look forward to working closely with you and your staff on this issue.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Wright
Associate Director of Mining

vb

cc: Rex Rowley, BLM Area Manager
Alan Rabinoff, BLM State Office
E. M. (Buzz) Gerick, WSMC
D. R. Nielson, DEQ
T. Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General